

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05457 132045Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 /076 W

-----109525 132056Z /61

O R 131700Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9191

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS PFOR WA

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA

REF: PRETORIA 5328

1. SUMMARY: ON THE EVE OF THE CONTACT GROUP MEETING WITH EXTERNAL SWAPO IN NEW YORK, INTERNAL SWAPO AND THE TURNHALLE GROUP ARE ACTIVE IN ANTICIPATION OF AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, WHILE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL STEYN WORKS ON THE REPEAL OF DISCRIMINATORY AND SECURITY LEGISLATION AND MUDGE, AT A TIME WHEN "TERRORIST" INCIDENTS ARE REPORTEDLY ON THE INCREASE, IS GIVING ASSURANCES THAT THE SADF WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 05457 132045Z

2. SWAPO HELD ITS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING IN OVAMBO IN FIVE YEARS AT OSHAKATI ON OCTOBER 9. A CROWD OF ABOUT 1000 BLACKS ATTENDED THE FOUR-HOUR MEETING. IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION, THE OVAMBO GOVERNMENT ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT NO WHITE OFFICIALS AND NO MEMBERS OF THE OVAMBO HOMEGUARD OR OVAMBO BATTALION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING. POLICE AND

MILITARY STAYED AWAY FROM THE SPORTS FIELD WHERE THE MEETING WAS HELD, AND THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS CARRIED VERY LITTLE ON WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID AT THE MEETING. AMONG THE FEW REPORTED STATEMENTS WERE ONE BY SWAPO PUBLICITY SECRETARY M. TLHABANELLO WHO ALLEGEDLY ACCUSED THE WESTERN FIVE OF COMPLICITY WITH THE SAG TO KEEP SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN THE TERRITORY, AND ANOTHER BY SWAPO SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS F. NAHOLO WHO REPORTEDLY ASSERTED "IF JUGE STEYN IS STILL IN NAMIBIA WHEN SWAPO IS IN POWER...HE WILL BE JAILED."

3. ON OCTOBER 12, THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE TURNHALLE BEGAN ITS LAST OFFICIAL SESSION BEFORE ITS DISBANDMENT. THE MAJOR POINT OF DISCUSSION IS EXPECTED TO BE THE DIVISION OF POWERS AMONG THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE TURNHALLE CONSTITUTION. THE NON-WHITE DELEGATIONS AND DIRK MUDGE FAVOR MORE POWERS BEING VESTED IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WHILE THE NATIONAL PARTY OF SWA WOULD PREFER TO SEE MOST POWERS AT THE SECOND-TIER ETHNIC LEVEL. WHETHER OR NOT ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONALISTS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFT PREFERRED BY MUDGE AND THE NON-WHITE GROUPS WILL PRESUMABLY SERVE AS THE POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE TURNHALLE POLITICAL ALLIANCE THAT IS EXPECTED TO EMERGE SOON.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 05457 132045Z

4. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN "TERRORIST" ACTIVITY DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST EIGHT ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE SADF SINCE SEPTEMBER 25, IN WHICH A NUMBER OF "TERRORISTS" HAVE BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED. THE REPORTS STATE THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE KILLED 50 PERCENT MORE GUERRILLAS IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS THAN IN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS.

5. A CONTACT AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY WHO MET WITH ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN AND HIS CHIEF ASSISTANT JOHN VIAL ON A RECENT VISIT TO WINDHOEK INFORMS US THAT PLANS ARE WLL UNDERWAY TO DO AWAY WITH THE PASS LAWS IN NAMIBIA. HE SAID THE A-G'S OFFICE ALSO HOPES TO DO AWAY WITH PROCLAMATION R 17--THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS IN OVAMBO--BUT IS MEETING OPPOSITION FROM THE OVAMBO GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, STEYN HAS REFUSED PERMISSION FOR THE EXILED ANGLICAN BISHOP OF DAMARALAND, COLIN WINTER, AND HIS ASSISTANT, BISHOP RICHARD WOOD, TO RETURN TO THE TERRITORY. THE TWO CHURCHMEN WERE EXPELLED BY THE SAG IN 1973 AND 1975 RESPECTIVELY, BUT

HAVE RETAINED THEIR POSITIONS IN EXILE. STEYN REPORTEDLY
ACTED ON THE BASIS OF A PETITION HE RECEIVED FROM SOME
ANGLICAN CHURCH MEMBERS THAT WINTER' RETURN WOULD
AGGRAVATE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH.

6. AN SABC RADIO BROADCAST OF OCTOBER 13 QUOTED DIRK
MUDGE AS SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY HIGH
AUTHORITY THAT SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAD NO CAUSE TO FEAR
FOR ITS SECURITY. HE REFUTED RUMORS THAT SOUTH AFRICA
INTENDED TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM THE TERRITORY.
BOWDLER

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